

VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

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It's YOUR Newspaper

Republicans Stall Dream Act in the Senate

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students who are in this country illegally will have to wait until Nov. 16 to be considered for legal status, after Republicans successfully blocked a bill to come up for vote in the U.S. Senate that would have granted them a path toward permanent legal status.

The Dream Act would provide students who entered this country illegally before the age of 16, have lived in the United States for five years, earned a high school diploma, and will complete either two years of college or two years of service in the military, an opportunity to gain legal status.

"I really hope [the Dream Act] happens right now," said Jennifer, a Business major and Valley student who came to this country illegally as a child, and asked that her last name not be disclosed. "All I want is a law that can give all college students who are undocumented some type [of] visa or legal status."

Each year, there are approximately 65,000 students who have grown up in this country and graduated from high schools who would be eligible for legal status under the Dream Act, according to the National Immigration Law Center.

Opponents of this bill believe that the Dream Act would only reward people who entered this country illegally by providing amnesty, and that by going to college, undocumented students take seats from students who are citizens.

Florentino Manzano, Dean of Enrollment at Valley, disagrees. "We [Valley] don't have a problem of not having enough space, that's more a myth than a reality. If we have a limit of 30 students in a class, having 31 is not going to hurt anyone. We actually struggle with our enrollment."

Many of these students are not only worried about their status in the U.S., but also dealing with the cost of college tuition.

"They receive no federal or state financial aid, not at all," said Barbara Ralston, director of financial aid. "This affects [illegal students] in a negative way. But anyone applying for financial aid must meet the eligibility requirements."

Students must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, show that they are in financial need, be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, have a valid social security number, have a high school diploma, and be enrolled at an institution working toward a degree or certificate.

"I don't see myself in grad school," said Jennifer. "I would like to go, but I can't afford it."

One place where undocumented students can turn to see *Dream Act* page 6



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
PACKED HOUSE-Mark Drummond, the new Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District, speaks to a room full of Valley College staff and faculty at a meeting, Tuesday Oct. 2, 2007, in the campus cafeteria conference room.

LACCD Chancellor Visits Valley

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Mark Drummond spoke to a group of faculty and administrators during a town hall meeting at Valley College Oct. 2. He addressed the district-wide challenge of attracting and retaining students as well as how to ensure the district receives its fair share of the educational budget.

During his talk to members of Valley's faculty and staff, he cited statistics saying that out of 100 students beginning ninth grade in the Los Angeles Unified School District, only 33 will gradu-

ate and go straight to college. Because the University of California and California State University systems guarantee the 33 percent spaces at their institutions, Drummond stressed that Los Angeles' community colleges need to find ways to attract the rest of the area's high school students.

"In that 67 percent are a lot of future scientists, a lot of future everything," he said. "They aren't all dumb people because they missed the bus and didn't go directly to college. There's a wealth of very great potential in that 67 percent. . . . How do we stimulate and engage them?"

District wide, colleges are having trouble attracting and

keeping these students returning. Drummond pointed out that although the number of new students rose by 13 percent, the number of students returning to the colleges fell by 4 percent. In order to best serve students, Drummond encouraged his audience to be realistic.

"The truth is . . . the world in which we operate has changed and the students with which we deal have changed and so keeping the same methods and operations isn't particularly successful," he said. "We can see that all sorts of outcome studies about how we do with retention and persistence of student success and unfortunately those numbers aren't going up . . . so those of us that are

waiting around for better students have finally decided that they aren't coming. We better deal with the one's we've got."

The chancellor also addressed one of the issues that are foremost on many students' minds - fees. There is a proposed ballot initiative, Proposition 92 that would, if approved by voters, not only lower student fees by \$5 a unit, but would tie the cost of classes to the cost of living. He explained, "When the [state] legislature feels in a pinch, they've been radically raising fees and then when times are good, they reduce them." If passed, community college fees would be more stable and see *Chancellor* page 6

College Gets Multi-Million-Dollar Boost

BY KRISTEN BECKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Valley College will soon boast a campus that is no longer stuck in the technological dark ages. The school was awarded one of 15 \$2.8 million grants by the U.S. Department of Education. The money will be used to fund an extension of the college's online program, an expansion of services to students on the Internet and technological training for faculty. It will also provide additional money to the school's scholarship fund.

"[Online classes] break down that time and distance problem that you see with so many students," said Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye. "Single parents, for example . . . just cannot seem to get to college because of time commitments that they have at home."

According to a 2006 survey of Valley students, 70 percent of respondents asked for more online courses. For the fall semester, there are 1,382 enrollments in the 35 classes the college offers over the Internet.

Laurie Nalepa, dean of vocational education reiterated the importance of distance education for Valley students. "Our students are time bound, meaning that they have enormous outside responsibilities. Thirty percent of [them] work full-time and 56 percent . . . work part-time," she said.

In order to provide students with more opportunities to see *Grant* page 6

Cheaper Textbooks May be Just a Signature Away for Students

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

Students who walk into their campus bookstore can be discouraged when they see that their assigned textbook will cost more than the class they are purchasing it for. However, this could change if Gov. Schwarzenegger signs a bill that was set on his desk three weeks ago.

Senate Bill 832, The College Textbook Affordability Act, would require textbook publishers to post their prices upfront in all their marketing materials, making it easier for professors to shop around and select the best book for the best price. The savings would then be passed on to students.

Sen. Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro), an ex-professor, said she was inspired to write the bill after hearing a unique excuse why a student

has not completed the homework.

"One of my students told me they were not going to finish their homework because they couldn't afford the textbook. That stopped me dead in my tracks," she said in an interview with Daily Review Online.

Textbook costs are high partly because prices are not readily available to professors when they are selecting texts for their classes. According to a report by the California Student Public Interest Research Group, 94 percent of faculty members would take price into account when selecting textbooks, but only 38 percent of faculty members receive an answer after asking publishers about books' costs.

Zeke Reyes, 22, president of the Valley College chapter of CALPIRG, is in full support of the new bill.

see *Textbooks* page 6



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
SCARY BOOK PRICES - Valley College bookstore employee Paul Anderson stacks books in the English section of the store. Anderson says students ask, "do you have any used books?" in their chosen subject to avoid paying the full prices. Pending legislation could lower the price of books in California. If Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signs the Textbook Affordability Act, book publishing companies will be forced to make their prices public, making it easier for college instructors to take price into consideration when choosing their required texts.

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SCHOOL SPIRIT
VALLEY COLLEGE HAS ITS
FAIR SHARE OF IT
WWW.LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Valley College Celebrates Club Day with a Twist



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

SINGING ABOUT HISTORY - Alejandro Laborde plays guitar and sings as he entertains Valley College students and faculty during the Chicano-Latino Heritage Celebration Day held Wednesday, Oct. 3rd in Monarch Square.

By BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

Activism and awareness were the buzzwords du jour in Monarch Square at Valley Colleges' combined Club Day and Latino Heritage Day celebration.

Club Days are Associated Student Union-sponsored events that spotlight the various clubs on campus. The gathering gives organizations a chance to get their names out there and let students know what they are all about. But this time around, the usual booths were spiced up with new clubs, the chance to get your name printed on a grain of rice and the usual smell of construction was replaced by the aroma of chicken fajitas.

This event was also used as a platform for organizations to get some attention for political and social issues aimed at the 18 to 24-year-old college demographic. Clubs like the California Public Interest Research Group



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

HISTORY ON DISPLAY - Valley College student Javier Venegas shows the artwork of a friend during the Chicano-Latino Heritage Celebration Day last Wednesday in Monarch Square.

(CALPIRG) videotaped students' questions to presidential candidates to be posted to YouTube directly from their booth.

"Our goal is to increase voter awareness," said CALPIRG member Jonathan Grell. "We are trying to get students to care more about the government, and decrease voter apathy."

New clubs like the gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) group were more than happy to make a splash and bring some color (and cake) to the festivities. The GLBTQ booth was adorned with rainbow colors and the members were eager to let folks know that they were here, they were queer and they had candy.

"We just want to get every gay, straight and whatever together," said GLBTQ member Brandy Colgan. "And we are also representing for the AIDS Walk."

The main attraction of Club Day was Movmiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A.) celebration of Chicana/o Latina/o Heritage Day.

"Our goal is to bring more culture to the school," said M.E.Ch.A. member Felicia Ri-

vera. "We want to bring more unity and community involvement on campus."

The Latin flavor was represented with several tents showcasing cultural arts and crafts from south of the border or just down the street. There was also plenty of food and dancing to be had as well. A guitar-playing singer, whose Spanish songs could be heard all across the campus, provided the soundtrack for the day.

Monarch Square was filled with so many different things happening, from transfer information to Salsa dancing that any message probably got lost in translation. But a fair is a fair, and sometimes students need a distraction from quizzes and construction noise.

The weather was beautiful and just made it easier for everyone to have a good time while learning a thing or two about life at Valley and the diversity of its student body.

However there was a booth that seemed to be out of place in Monarch Square - the U.S. Army's. A word to the wise, be sure you know which club you are signing up for, otherwise you may just be attending Club Day in boot camp.

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Valley Program Provides Job Skills

By OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles Valley College was awarded a grant last October by the US Department of Labor intended for the school's Advanced Manufacturing Training Institute.

Valley's President Tyree Wieder said, "We look forward to playing a major role in increasing the economic vitality of [the] San Fernando Valley."

Out of 186 applicants competing for a total of \$16.8 million in grants, Valley was one of 11 organizations from 10 states that procured funding. In addition to the \$1.5 million grant, 11 industries and local strategic partners will contribute more than \$1.7 million of in-kind support, which includes use of facilities, provision of services, expertise of staff and operation of state-of-the art equipment.

AMTI expects to create new jobs for approximately 700 individuals, decrease layoffs by 75 percent in targeted companies, train 1,155 people, and help students gain college credit through work service.

The program intends on reaching these goals by working closely with companies around the San Fernando Valley to meet industry specifications. One of these companies is Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, who manufacture parts and engines for commercial airplanes to Air Force military fleet. (For the full list of employers visit www.lavc.edu/amti).

AMTI Project Director Bernadette U. Gilbert said, "This program allows us to reach out and fulfill our commitment to the community."

Beginning Monday, AMTI Manufacturing Academy will open its doors to individuals who will be trained for jobs in the manufacturing industry

for six weeks.

According to AMTI Director Lennie Ciufo, a substantial amount of those in attendance will be recently displaced workers from the Easton Company, which closed its doors earlier this year. Ciufo said "We're going to acclimate the workers so they can be rehired."

The academy's plan is to upgrade basic industry and technical skills for existing workers, which may lead to promotions or raises in salary. One attribute of the class will be to teach Vocational English as Second Language.

Once workers move up the structural ladder, a void will be left, that can be filled by unemployed/displaced workers who will go through the training as well. These new trainees will receive preparation to meet Manufacturing Skills Standards Council Certification. The certification teaches safety, quality assurance, manufacturing process and maintenance awareness.

AMTI's last goal is to reach out to high schools by offering employment and vocational education. Valley intends to branch out by attending career fairs at local high schools, including Monroe, Van Nuys and Grant.

Valley will be hosting the Horizon Industries Forum for the Advanced Manufacturing Workforce in 2017 this coming October. Students who are majoring in engineering or mathematics are encouraged to attend. Confirmed speakers include executives and administrators from Precision Dynamics corp., Esterline Mason Co., Gorko Industries Inc., CSUN and Valley.

Students who are interested in the program or information can visit the Job Center, located next to the cafeteria, or visit www.lavc.edu/amti.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

THREE CHIHUAHUAS SIT STILL! - Out for their daily Valley College Monarch Square walk, these high-energy dogs listen to their owner ... but for just a moment. The dogs belong to a woman who calls herself Friedwa. She lives on Oxnard Street near campus and says school officials don't mind when she visits school with her dogs.

Random Acts of Campus Crime

By SHIELA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

Student Injury

A female student was rushed to Sherman Oaks Hospital after suffering seizure-like symptoms in the library on Thursday, September 27 at 1 p.m. No further information was available.

Domestic Battery

A female student got into a confrontation with her boyfriend in the Foreign Language Building on Saturday, September 29 around 12:20 p.m. No other suspect or witness was available.

Campus Incident

An ex-Valley College student tried to pass some bad checks at the bookstore on Tuesday, September 25 around 5 p.m. No other information was available.

Theft

A student's purse was stolen in the Humanities building, room 115 around 11 a.m. on September 19. The theft was reported on October 1. No further information was available.

Traffic Collision

A vehicle crashed into the wall on the Valley campus on the cor-

ner of Burbank and Ethel. The accident occurred on October 3 around 10 a.m. No injuries were reported.

Burglary

A contractor had his power tools stolen from the South Gym between October 4 and 5.

Burglary (Vehicle)

A student's parking pass was stolen out of his/her vehicle which was parked in Parking Lot G. This occurred on October 5 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. No other information was available.

OPINION

3

Talking, Not Walking

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN
STAFF WRITER

My generation has come of age in a time when everyone is encouraged to express their opinions, whether they are in tune with the opinions shared by the majority of Americans or in the minority. And there is no doubt that my generation has taken advantage of the world we have created by posting our comments all over Internet sites.

However, I believe this generation has failed to act on the opinions they express. Despite the increasing disenchantment with this government I see a lack of political activity that does not reflect the opinions expressed in almost every blog or national poll.

According to the most recent Gallup poll, President George W. Bush has a 32 percent approval rating, due mostly, to his mishandling of the war in Iraq. However, I have yet to witness an anti-war rally in my college or an anti-war demonstration in any part of the country organized by college students that has received national attention.

Also, a majority of Americans, 57 percent, according to the Gallup poll think that going into Iraq was a mistake and I count myself among them. But this number means nothing to the president and lawmakers when they see the number of people who actually go to the booths. It is easy to say this is a just or unjust war, but it takes more than words to bring political change.

In 2004 only 22 percent of 18 to 25 year olds said that they always voted, according to the Pew Research Center. So, the message that many people in this generation send is that they do not like the war, but are not willing to do anything about it.

In fact, the percentage of young adults, ages 18 to 19, who register a complete lack of attention for politics rose from 24 percent in 2002 and 2003 as opposed to 12 percent in 1987 and 1988 according to Pew Research polls taken over the past two decades.

It is true that political participation increases with age, but do we wait until we are in our 40s or 50s to have a say in our political future?

Eventually, baby boomers and Gen Xers will leave the political arena and this generation will have to take control of the White House, Congress, and Supreme Court. In order to be better prepared let us blog and act at the same time.

Your Debt — Whose Fault is it Anyway?

BY BOB TEICHMANN
LAYOUT EDITOR

Car: \$4,000. Dell financial: \$1,500. Credit cards: \$1,000. Knowing how much debt is burning a hole in your wallet: Priceless.

Students spend day and night worrying about coursework and tests. Should they worry about continuously increasing debt as well? If they spent \$600 on an iPhone rather than using that ridiculous chunk of change to pay down a credit card, perhaps they should.

Thanks to a sense of social necessity, we go to school to get "edumkated" in an attempt to get a degree, which will (we hope) result in a career with huge dollar signs. But what good is that high-paying job when a considerable portion of that goes into paying back high-interest school loans and covering care-less personal spending?

Keep in mind that California college students do not have the worst average debt. Californians carry an average \$17,270 in debt, 41st in the nation, compared to 1st place District of Columbia with \$27,757. Of course that's little comfort for those of us with crummy jobs and over-inflated financing charges.

So, who is to blame? Big

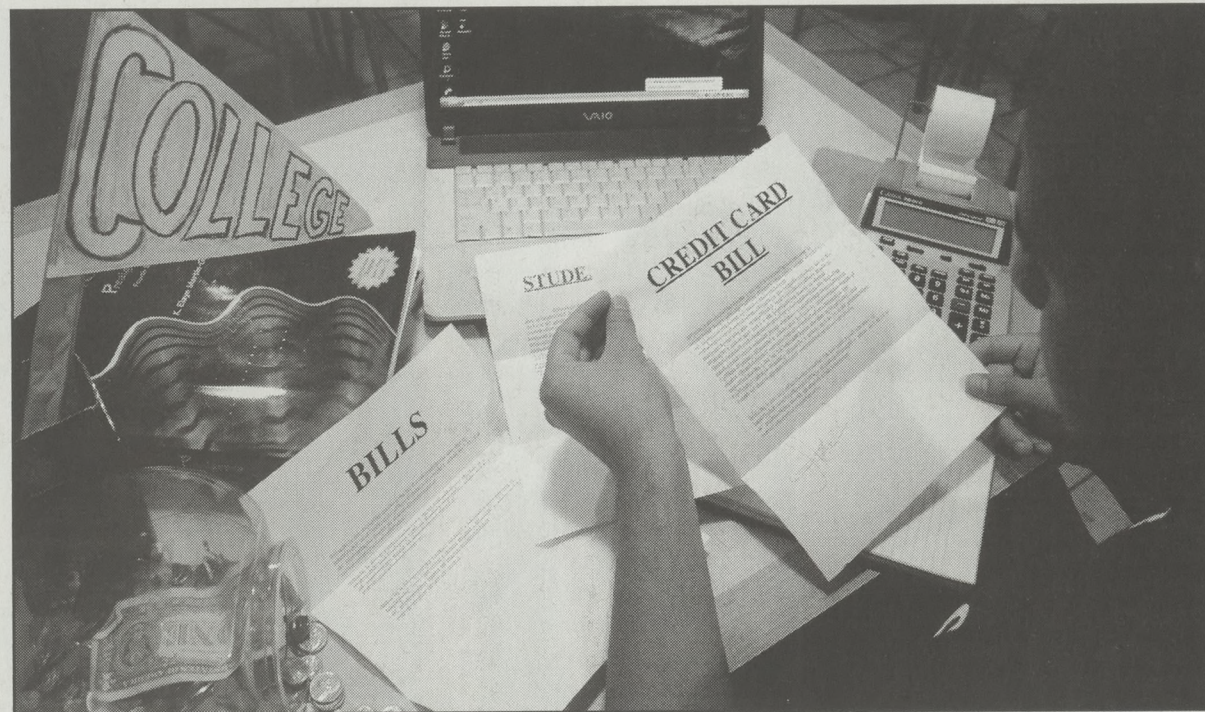
banks and credit card companies, perhaps. My unemployed, 18-year-old sister was approved just days after her birthday for a \$900 platinum credit card and two big-name department store charge cards. Happy birthday.

What about schools? Public universities' tuition costs have increased 268 percent in the last 30 years. Or perhaps the United States Congress? They swallowed \$12.7 billion from student-loan programs in 2006 (the largest cut in history), then defecated that into the Middle East war effort.

Or could it be... oh no... say it ain't so. Don't blame it on the students!

Yes, financial institutions, universities, and the Fed each have a heavy hand in the blame game of student financial hardships. But it is the student's primary obligation to resist offers of easy credit and to avoid random spending. It is common for people to see a "0% Introductory APR" offer, only to be approved for something that resembles 29.5 percent because they didn't read the contract that says they won't qualify for the better rate. It is also common to spend a little here and a little there, then suddenly watch all of that add up to a very large sum.

Many college students dig a well deeper than they can fill. I'm sure quite a few of you are holding



JUAN ROBLES/VALLEY STAR

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS - College students are always looking for more money, but are they spending it where they should?

a Venti Iced Mocha Frappuccino while reading this article. Figure you spend \$4.65 twice each day for an average of six days per week. That's more than \$50 you could have put towards a Sociology 21 book. That's almost two Sprint bills. More importantly, that's three gallons of gas... well, almost.

How often do you receive a bill in the post, only to be put off to paying it because you blew \$100 on tickets to see a loud English band at the Hollywood Paladium

the night before? It doesn't matter that you saved 15 percent on your car insurance by switching to Geico. You still have to pay it.

Despite having a \$7.50 an hour job at Vons with only a 20-hour work-week, and despite the fact that more than 25 percent of 18 to 34-year-olds move back home to their parents after college, many students still spend beyond their means (47 percent in California, to be exact).

Perhaps students should take a step back and re-examine their

spending habits. Perhaps they should acknowledge that loans of any kind are like food — always tempting, but not always good for you. Perhaps they should take personal responsibility rather than blame their situations on poor education or dodgy lenders.

Ultimately, it is up to each student to make those decisions, then live with them. When the blame game goes around, nothing will be changed, nothing will be fixed. Maybe it's time you ask your boss to give you a raise?

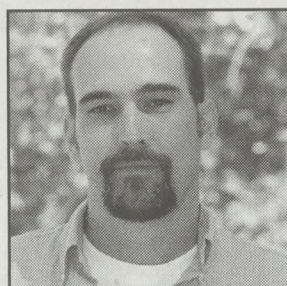
Campus View

PHOTOS BY VAN TRIEU



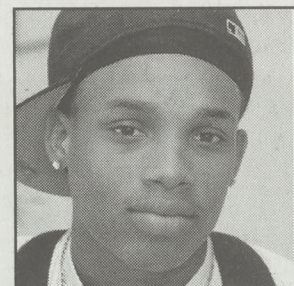
"It's really bad, I try to pay as I go, because you can go further into debt after school. I understand if someone has to get a loan but it should be as minimal as possible."

Bozeno Szyszkowska
nursing



"Everybody has it probably. I quit my job to come back to school, so I have no money coming in and money going out, but that's the price you have to pay to come to school."

Eric Barnhart
respiratory therapy



"If they have debt I feel they should take care of it right off the bat, I mean they should take care of that. Don't get caught up in a situation where you owe something."

Andre Davis
undeclared



"The government should take care of more than they do. It's really hard to get financial aid and... it's challenging because students have to work and go to school at the same time."

Sara Kamberian
philosophy

What do you think of Student Debt?

Britney's Broken Life

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

2007 will go down in history as the year of ParisCarriage, LohanGate, and the fall and fall of Britney Jean Spears.

Things have only gone down hill this year for the troubled popette, with a trip to rehab, the infamous head shaving, photo shoots gone awry, and THAT performance at the MTV Video Music Awards. Almost everyone has an opinion, or at least has had a chuckle about Britney's daily misdeeds, but when it all comes down to it—it's not funny anymore, it's just depressing.

This week, Britney's life was further upturned with her ex-husband, Kevin Federline, being awarded full custody of their two children, Sean Preston and Jayden James, until further notice. Obviously, the presiding judge had reasons why Spears lost custody of her boys, and while she is going through such difficult times, it is for the best that she does not have her children. But I can only envision what losing her children may do to her already fragile state of mind.

It is easy to pass judgement on the Spears circus because we do not know her personally, and do not know the full story of what goes on in her daily life. Just imagine if Britney Spears wasn't a world famous singer, but instead, the girl sitting two rows over in math class. Would you not be fearful for their sanity if in the last two years, they had birthed two children, gone through a divorce, had a career that consumes their life, and according to Dr. Drew of KROQ's "Loveline" probably has postpartum depression? You wouldn't be watching and commenting on their every move, you would be begging them to seek treatment, if you hadn't already taken them to be cared for yourself.

While I won't be putting myself on Youtube crying "Leave Britney Alone," I will be joining the growing chorus of internet bloggers and say this — Britney, seek help, because we're sick of seeing you like this, and we don't want you to go the same way as Anna Nicole Smith.



VAN TRIEU / VALLEY STAR

BANGED UP - This vehicle is headed for the repair shop ... maybe.

Driven to Distraction by Bad Drivers

BY JESSICA RAWSTRON
STAFF WRITER

As I lay there in one of my tri-weekly chiropractor appointments, I asked myself one question: What makes me upset enough to inspire an opinion piece? Light bulb! ...Bad drivers... after all, that's why I'm here in the first place.

I'm here because of distracted and careless drivers. A college girl on her way to work was busy sending text messages and driving 40 mph down Balboa Blvd- when she failed to notice that I was stopped at a light- and BAM! She slammed into the back of my car. Of course we were both terrified- but part of me couldn't bring myself to feel an ounce of sympathy for this inconsiderate girl who so carelessly ruined my morning.

According to the DMV Web site, one out of four

accidents a day is caused by one or more distractions. That amounts to 4,300 accidents every day and 1.5 million accidents a year due to text messages, phone calls, music, passengers, food, make-up, smoking, and reading directions.

It boggles my mind to think how we so generously hand out drivers' licenses, like we pass out candy on Halloween. I say this because we set such low standards for those given a license to drive. Any 16 year old who can afford drivers' training and can use a turning signal, can walk right into the DMV and is almost guaranteed they'll be given the legal right to drive.

The DMV reminds us: "A vehicle is like a loaded gun, it can be a deadly weapon." And yet we're installing DVD players and video game consoles in our cars! This makes

no sense, and more importantly there should be laws against it.

I figured rotting our brains at home with "Everybody Loves Raymond" and Halo 3 was more than enough, but now we have to bring it on the road with us too?

Here's the icing on the cake: I was driving home from that same chiropractor appointment, and to my dismay, I noticed an ambulance driver next to me chatting away happily on his cell phone, laughing and throwing up hand gestures, without a care in the world. And I couldn't help but think to myself, "This is the most IRONIC thing I've ever seen in my life!" If we can't entrust our lives in the hands of paramedics, who can we trust behind the wheel? Aren't those the people who should be setting an example of what SAFE driving is?

WEDNESDAY
TO TUESDAYWhat's New Online
@ lavalleystar.com

"Ensemble Green Concert"
By Scott Mitchell
Special to the Star

**"Countdown with
Keith Olberman"** Review
By Eli Beltran
Staff Writer

"CalPirg Profile"
By James Bennett
Staff Writer

**"Valley Lacks School
Spirit"**
By Kim Duran
Staff Writer

**"Get Arrested in Vegas,
Stay in Vegas"**
By Marissa Meyer
Staff Writer

Top 5 Stories Online
@ lavalleystar.com

**"It's Bush's Believe it or
Not"**
by Jessica Rawstron
Staff Writer

**"An Old West
"Assassination"
with Flair"**
By Eric L. Patten
Special to the Star

**"Jena 6" Receive Valley
Support"**
By Brad Taylor
Online Editor

**"Seizure- Like Symptoms
Send Valley Student to
Hospital"**
By Sarah Bishop
Opinion Editor

"A Toxic Toy Story"
By Brad Taylor
Online Editor

Writing Center
"How to fix run- on
sentences"
Wed. Oct. 10
12:30- 1:30 p.m.
H.100

Think Transfer!

Wednesday, October 10
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 11
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
1-2 p.m.

Monday October 15
CSU Los Angeles Rep 10-1
College Application workshop
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16
CSU Northridge Rep 10-1 and 5-7
College Application Workshop 1-2

Guarantee your admission to a UC
by participating in a UC Transfer
Admission Guarantee Program.
For program information, qualifi-
cations and applications visit the
Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126,
or call (818) 947-2646. All events
held in the Career/Transfer Center.

Wednesday, October
17, 4:00-6:00 PM, Family
Resource Center, B49
**LITERACY SERIES PART
ONE:
GIVING THANKS**
Presented by Jane Raphael,
LAUSD Literacy Specialist

RSVP: (818)947-2407 or
778-5528

Follow the Ashy Brick Road

BY JAMES BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Everybody likes a good collage. Assortments of shapes, colors, and angles are pleasing to the eye, at least they are when they're on a canvas. Valley College has a Kool collage on the floor. Not only is it Kool, it's also Marlboro, Parliament, Camel, and a little Black and Mild. It's like Hansel and Gretel ran through campus chain-smoking leaving a Technicolor cornucopia of cancer in their wake. The question is, how does this happen on a campus laden with designated smoking sections, complete with ashtrays?

"If we had better ashtrays, there'd be less cigarette butts on the floor," commented Steven Ruiz, the ASU Chief Justice. "It would make the campus look better, and make for happier students." Everybody on campus has seen the traffic-cone wannabes directing traffic through the designated smoking sections. These anti-pyro pyramids are designed to provide protection against pollution;

but their inherent flaw of being completely repulsive effectively negates any function that would compensate for their utter lack of form. For those who aren't privy to their mechanics, the concept is simple: there is a tube attached to a bucket, and what appears to be a very small birdhouse attached to the pole. Cigarette butts are placed in the hole that

would usually be the finch-only entrance, tumble down the tube, and land in the bucket. The design is meant to restrict airflow down the tube in order to extinguish the cigarettes as they plummet to their smoky grave.

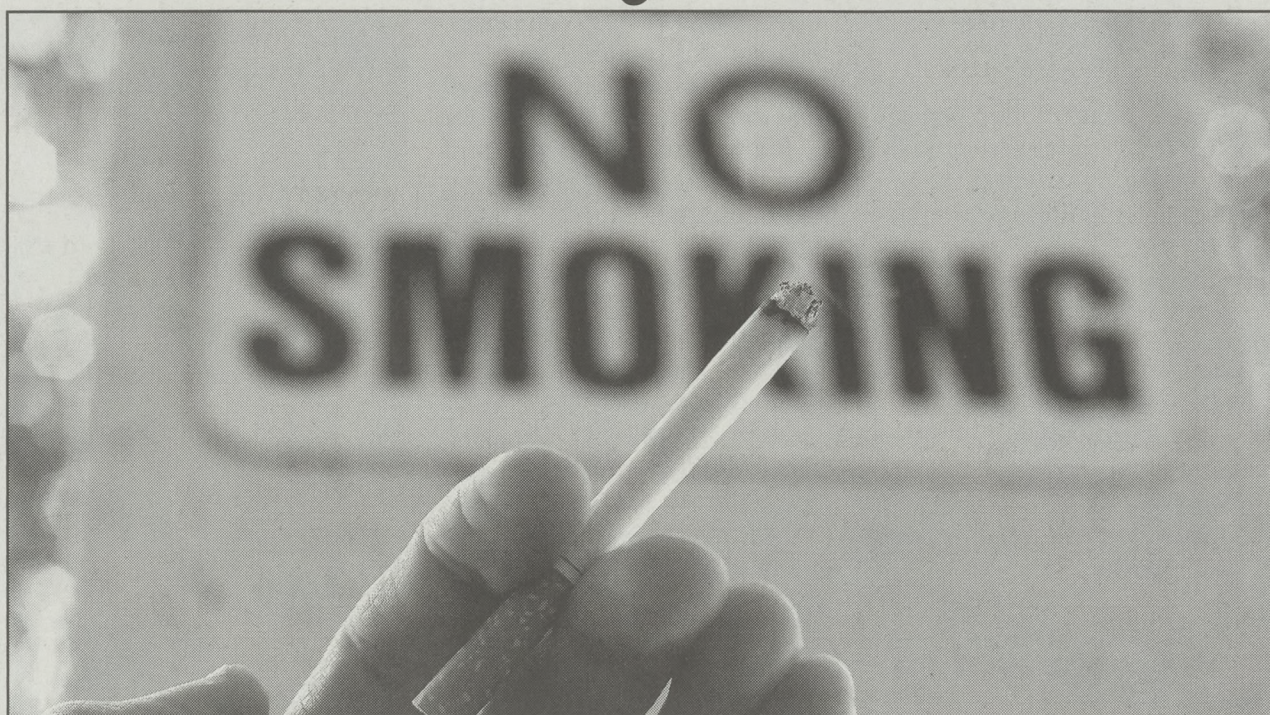
Perusing the various smoking sections around campus quickly reveals the shortcomings of the ashtrays: Many have various

items jammed in the holes, two of them had cigarette packs lodged in them, and one near the bungalows was getting some extra potassium in its diet as it futilely tried to consume the banana jammed in its orifice. Aside from the ashtrays that are simply impossible to use, the rest of them are coated in a thick black layer of ash around the finch-

door. Despite the fact that smokers, well, smoke, it's safe to say that the average smoker doesn't want to be intimately familiar with the ash, spit, and lipstick of the previous 200 smokers to use the ashtray. So the only way to get your cigarette butt in the hole without moving your hands dangerously close to the toxic gunk around the opening is to be a veritable

Kobe Bryant with a degree in aeronautics, and somehow manage to throw your cigarette through the hole; a substantially harder feat than firing a proton torpedo down a two-meter wide thermal exhaust port.

Many students have misconceptions about the cost advantage of Valley's current ashtrays. Gabe Zokovsky, an undecided 17-year-old student didn't mind the current state of Valley's ashy affairs: "[Normal outdoor ashtrays] are better, but more expensive. The money could be better spent elsewhere." According to some Internet research, the birdhouse-attached to a tube-attached to a bucket design costs about \$55 each. On the same Web site, the SuperSaver Cigarette Urn costs \$88. Is a one-time fee of \$33 per ashtray worth a probable vast reduction of cigarette butt litter? Hopefully the Valley waste management staff will consider the investment, because although our campus-wide cancer collage is amusing, it would be prettier on a canvas.



HARD TO FIND- Smoking is still a popular pastime for millions of people, but it's getting harder to find places to smoke.

GLBTQ Returns to Valley

BY BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

There is a new club on the Valley College campus and they want everyone to know that they are here and queer and ready to make a difference.



NEW CLUB-Anthony Rojas (r), 18, takes part in Valley College Club Day on campus, Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2007. He's a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender and Questioning club (GLBTQ).

The gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/transgender/questioning or GLBTQ club has only had a few meetings, but they are already working towards getting their name out there and raising awareness to all the students who need a place to belong and many think it is about time.

"Considering we haven't had a GLBTQ club on campus for over five years the students are ready for another one," said GLBTQ President Erika Yasuo. "This club helps with the diversity on campus, and it makes for a more positive community." The young organization has already taken part in the first "Club Day" of the semester, their booth was by far the most colorful and energized of the bunch. The table sported the

a very fun and active group."

Saturday was movie night for the club as members headed to the multiplex for some cinematic bonding. Future events for the club include participating in Homecoming and being involved in the "Los Angeles AIDS Walk" on October 21 as a major part of team Valley College. The emphasis is heavy on participation and civic duty while making some great friends.

"It's awesome," said club member Brandy Colgan. "We have a good time and work to have a safe society for everyone to have fun." The club meets Wednesdays at 2:30pm in Behavioral Sciences Room 106.

New Country, New Family

BY JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Russia, Germany, Uganda, Australia, Nigeria, Vietnam, France, and The Philippines may have different cultures, philosophies and outlooks on life from each other. However, feelings of wistful loneliness are universal to all humans. Helping to alleviate those feelings for new international students is Valley's International Students Club.

"It serves as a means for meeting people, people who have been through the same process, who know what homesickness is all about," said club president Jake Bowers, an international student from Canada. "It's a family away from home."

Early orientation and specialized counseling are some of the perks that come with being a member, but the biggest benefit goes beyond academics.

"The exchange of wisdom from other cultures is truly the key to the International Club," said club counselor Syed Hussain. "It really opens your horizons."

Whether it's helping a new student adapt to their surroundings, understanding the difference in cultures or dealing with the inherent shock that comes with it, the club dispenses only help, not embarrassment.

"When you're new to a country and you're still learning the native language,

sometimes you don't know how to ask a question," stated Bowers. "The biggest benefit is truly having a community that you can go to and ask any question."

"Just learning the system itself is difficult in addition to learning. It's very overwhelming," said club counselor Joyce Romero. "The language barrier is really inhibiting for some students but they are really motivated. Besides academics we want them to have a sense of home."

In addition to helping each other adapt to a new culture,

the club holds meetings and sponsors activities such as mountain hikes or trips to the movies. International students also make contributions to their newly adopted community with a charity food drive during Thanksgiving and toy drives during Christmas.

Although the longing for home will take time to subside, "There's power in numbers," says Bowers. "There's comfort knowing that you can ask questions and you don't have to walk around alone on campus."



ELECTION TIME- Students from the International Club raise their hands after club advisor Syed Hussain calls on each of the candidates nominated for President, Vice President, ICC Rep, Alternate ICC Rep, Treasure, and Secretary.

Side-Splitting Awards Show Held At Univeral Studios

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK
STAFF WRITER

UniversalStudiosHollywood kicked off the opening night of Halloween Horror Nights with the 5th annual "Eyegore Awards Scaremony" on October 5, 2007. This is the one event that honors actors, directors, and writers who have greatly contributed to the genre of horror by

making people imagine the unimaginable.

"Eyegore" Actor Award winner, and host for the evening was Michael Berryman who has appeared in over 24 horror films but is known best for his creepy performance as "Pluto" in the relentless Wes Craven horror film "The Hills Have Eyes" (1977). He was co-hosted by Merilee Brasch who has appeared in shows such as Nip/Tuck.

"It was great to receive an award for such a special event but it's even greater to host such an event and to honor others who have made such an impact in the horror genre" stated Berryman.

This year's honor roll included Emmy Award winner Patricia Arquette who appeared in "A Nightmare on Elm Street 3" and "Stigmata"; actor Cory Feldman who has also starred in "Friday the

13th" films and is the star in the upcoming film "Lost Boys 2: The Tribe;" actress Sheri Moon Zombie, star of Rob Zombie's films such as "House of 1000 Corpses" and "Halloween" (2007); award-winning producer/writer/director/actor Roger Corman who has over 150 horror films under his belt; producer/director/writer Don Mancini, creator of the "Child's Play" film series;

and actress Shawnee Smith from the "Saw" series.

After receiving the "Eyegore" award, Smith laughed and said, "This is the coolest, most bizarre award show ever, but I had a blast and hope to be back again."

This event is unique to Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights in a sense that it brings out celebrity guests such as David

Arquette, Craig Robinson of "The Office," Bob Guiney of "The Bachelor," Lucy Hale of "Bionic Woman," and even former "Eyegore" Award recipient Rob Zombie just to enjoy the night and end it with a scare by experiencing the terror of three of the most notorious madmen of the silver screen such as Freddy Krueger, Jason Voorhees, and Leatherface.

WEDNESDAY
TO TUESDAY

New CD Releases:

LeAnn Rimes - Family

Jennifer Lopez - Brave

Vanessa Carlton - Heroes And Thieves

Puddle Of Mudd - Famous

Kid Rock and the Twisted Brown Trucker Band - Rock And Roll Jesus

Deana Carter - The Chain

Keith Anderson - C'mon

Mannheim Steamroller - Christmas Song

She Wants Revenge - This Is Forever

Plumb - Blink

Josh Groban - Noel

Deborah Harry - Necessary Evil

Van Zant - My Kind of Country

Alter Bridge - Blackbird

Band of Horses - Cease To Begin

George Lopez - America's Mexican

Overkill - Immortals

Band of Horses - Cease To Begin [2 CDs]

New DVD Releases:

28 Weeks Later

Evan Almighty

Reign Over Me

Surf's Up

Concerts:

Bella Fleck and the Flecktones
The Grove of Anaheim
Oct. 10

The Dillinger Escape Plan
Key Club
Oct. 11

The Tragically Hip
House of Blues
Oct. 11

Aesop Rock
The Music Box
Oct. 12

Devendra Banhart
Orpheum Theatre
Oct. 13

Duncan Sheik
El Rey Theatre
Oct. 14

Q-Tip
Key Club
Oct. 14

New Theatre Releases:

Elizabeth: the Golden Age
Cate Blanchett, Clive Owen, Geoffrey Rush

We Own the Night
Mark Wahlberg, Joaquin Phoenix, Eva Mendes, Robert Duvall

Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married
Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry, Jill Scott

Lars and the Real Girl
Ryan Gosling, Patricia Clarkson

Don't Forget to TiVo!

In Search of the Next Elvira
Fox Reality Channel
Oct. 13

Don't Forget to YouTube!

Internet People
HSN Shopping Ladder
Grape Lady Falls
Angry German Kid

Additional content
online - Go to
www.lavalleystar.

Lessons Learned From Santa Barbara

By SARAH BISHOP
OPINION EDITOR

I wanted to take a quick trip for my birthday to Santa Barbara, so I researched some options online. I found a Web site that offered discounts on train tickets, hotel accommodations, and excursions for travelers willing to give up their vehicle for a bit. Seeing as I never want to drive anyway, this seemed ideal.

Things were looking up; I had gotten 20 percent off the train tickets and a bed and breakfast a block and a half from the beach, as well as a sunset cruise around the harbor. But, traveling always offers lessons, and this trip was no exception.

Here are a few things that I learned:

1. Check the station listings. Did you know there is a train sta-

tion in Van Nuys? Well, there is. I found that out after driving to Union station in morning traffic to sit on the train for an hour of maintenance. I rode by my house thirty minutes after that.

2. Google Map everything.

If I had learned this one already, perhaps I would have known about the train station, but more importantly I would have known that my hotel was a bit farther from the town than advertised. I was told it was three blocks

from downtown; it was actually a couple of ten-minute trolley rides away.

3. Sometimes off-season means fewer options. I thought I had booked a sunset sailboat tour of the harbor, but the boat company's ship needed repairs and the only other sailboat company runs just on the weekends outside of peak season. So, while it's nice to not share the harbor

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Valley College take the Orange line west to Van Nuys Blvd.
- From Van Nuys catch either the 233, 456, or the 761 to the Van Nuys train station.
- Catch the next train to Santa Barbara.
- You can now enjoy the coastal scenery without having to worry about being distracted by it.
- Reverse the directions on how you got to Santa Barbara to get home again.



SARAH BISHOP OPINION EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

ENJOYING THE DAY-Visitors to Santa Barbara take advantage of another sunny day to ride a bike.

with hundreds of people, it would have been nicer to actually get out on the water.

4. When renting bikes pick the one with gears if you're in a hilly region. Riding on a beach cruiser for 7 miles through the

Santa Barbara coastal hills, while beautiful, was a bit more of a challenge than I wanted.

5. Taxis in Santa Barbara are expensive. If you want to do the car-free trip to Santa Barbara, plan ahead and book a hotel near

the city, arrange for a pick up if you're doing a wine tour, and figure out the bus system. It's easy and straight forward. Don't spend \$45 for a cab to UCSB. Save that for the crushed grape kind of cab.

The Small Screen's Big Hits

By BRAD TAYLOR
ONLINE EDITOR

The new fall television season is now upon us and the networks are bringing out their best and brightest. You have seen the endless ads and may be confused about what to watch, so without further ado here are some of the best of the bunch.

Best Retro-Remake- "The Bionic Woman" I rallied hard against this show but I am a true-blue fan of the original and I wanted nothing to do with this. However, new star

Michelle Ryan brings charm to the role of bionic secret agent Jaime Sommers and the show fills a void left by "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Alias."

Best Nighttime Soap- "Dirty, Sexy, Money." The title says it all. Rich beautiful people doing naughty things are nothing new to TV, but it has been years since "Dynasty" ruled the airwaves. This show revolves around a lawyer working overtime for a super-rich New York family, good guilty pleasure fun.

Best Bet- "Chuck." The

world's super spy secrets are accidentally downloaded in the brain of an "Average Joe" slacker. A simple and fun concept that should really take off, ninjas and car chases never get old.

Best Idea Ever- "Pushing Daisies." A technicolor dream-like series that revolves around a guy with the uncanny ability to bring the dead back to life with one touch, but as with most "gifts" there are rules and side-effects. With Molly Shannon joining an already fun cast this show must be seen to be believed.

MOVIE REVIEW



COURTESY FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

Anderson Takes Show on the Road

By JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

In yet another classic film chronicling a family's demise and redemption, Wes Anderson delivers one of his best films, "The Darjeeling Limited."

Taking place on a train, three brothers (Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, and Jason Schwartzman) seek to find themselves and reunite as a family through a spiritual quest that spans across India.

Anderson does a terrific job of displaying the majesty, spirituality, and mysticism of India with sweeping city landscapes and lush rural backgrounds while maintaining the high-energy Marx Brothersque antics of the brothers Whitman.

Wilson further cements his status as the king of quirk as Francis Whitman. It's proper that Wilson is the oldest brother guiding his younger brothers on the "spiritual quest" through India and the moviegoer through the world of Wes Anderson.

Adrien Brody is a welcomed addition to the usual cast of players as middle brother Peter Whitman. Of the three brothers he is the only that plays the straight man giving both Wilson and Schwartzman room to shine. Unfortunately, he is channeling more Jack Driscoll from 2005's "King Kong" than a regular straight man. It is nice however to see someone break out of

the conventional Wes Anderson quirky, aloof, understated character mold that has become trademark for the director.

In addition to his co-writing credit, Schwartzman gives the most understated performance between Wilson and Brody as the youngest brother, Jack. Wilson's wonderfully over the top performance plays well against Schwartzman's extremely subtle, almost precocious demeanor in the film. While Wilson and Brody take up most of the screen time, it's Schwartzman who really sets up the movie with the online companion piece "Hotel Chevalier."

On a positive note, "The Darjeeling Limited" is a perfect blend of Anderson's previous works "Bottle Rocket" and "The Royal Tenenbaums." Sadly, critics and cynics might say that this is old hat for Anderson and that the director is a "one-trick pony." However nothing can be further from the truth.

Anderson fits the same mold of bands like The Rolling Stones and AC/DC, where they have such an infinite mastery and understanding of their craft, why change the formula that works so well? Ultimately, "The Darjeeling Limited" adds new, albeit subtle, wrinkles that make this film more than watchable besides the star power, the well-written story and the undeniable humor that shows Anderson's growth as a writer and director.

CD Preview
Radiohead
Offers
No
Rip-offs

By JESSICA RAWSTRON
STAFF WRITER

In the midst of the record industry's struggle to keep profits in the black, Radiohead hopes their innovative release method for their new album, "In Rainbows," will be their lucky charm to bypassing record label red tape.

This much anticipated album was originally said to be released in March 2008, but will actually be available via their Web site Oct. 10, only three months after the recordings have been mixed and mastered.

Though the excitement of the album release has fans overjoyed, the technique of how it's being released is actually where all the excitement lies. Radiohead is using Inrainbows.com as its release portal, which will give fans an opportunity to set their own price, any price at all, on the album. Meaning the band is releasing the album themselves-without the assistance of a record label.

Of course, there is a catch. The album is only available via the Web site and can-



COURTESY PHOTOBUCKET.COM

not be purchased in stores. For the more hardcore fans, a deluxe-edition box set can be purchased for \$81 which includes: "In Rainbows" on both vinyl and CD, plus a CD of bonus tracks and a lyric book, but it will not be available until Dec. 3.

This technique is new to the world of music, with the exception of Prince's new LP release "Planet Earth," which was distributed freely with the purchase of a British newspaper. So naturally it poses lots of questions: What is music worth to you? Are you willing to pay full price when given the option to do otherwise?

Many music-listeners are familiar with the idea that you can always find the CD somewhere else-for free. Let's face it; the Internet opens us up to a whole new world of possibilities. But according to the Radiohead Web site greenplastic.com, "There will be no advances, promotional copies, digital streams, media sites, etc. of Radiohead's "In Rainbows."

It is said however that the band is planning a more traditional type of release in early 2008.

CD Review
Better With Age

By JOSH SPENCE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

By completely abandoning their alt/punk roots, the Foo Fighters embrace their age (and fatherhood) on their sixth studio release, "Echoes, Silence, Patience, and Grace."

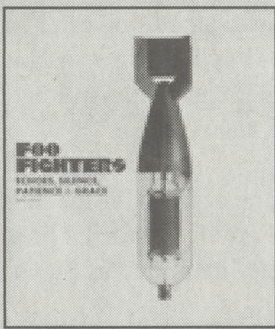
Using the band's last four albums as a sonic palette for "E, S, P, and G," it's understandable that the songs sound familiar on the first listen. The lead single, "The Pretender" has shout along choruses that equally recall "Monkey Wrench" and "All My Life" while also echoing Nirvana with the similar soft/loud song structure.

Tracks "Let it Die" and "Erase/Replace" pick up where 2005's "In Your Honor" left off and "The

Ballad of the Beaconsfield Miners" is a notable and welcomed departure as a beautiful bluegrass tribute to the Virginia miners who died in a mine collapse in 2006.

While the album is solid throughout, longtime Foo Fighters fans might say the album sounds dated. This is a half-truth, however. Yes, this is the first Foo Fighters album where they did not redefine their sound. It is also true that "Home" and "Statues" does sound a little like Foo Fighters by numbers.

Conversely, this is the first album that has allowed Dave Grohl and Co. to closely examine old territory musically, and it pays immediate dividends. The lyrics are more



COURTESY RCA/ ROSWELL

personal yet still universal in concept and the songwriting and structure has never been sharper.

"Long Road to Ruin" and "Summer's End" are easily the album's best tracks, lyrically and musically, they show Grohl's depth as a songwriter in addition to showing how cohesive the band is when performing together.

"E, S, P, and G" is a great example of a talented band finally being comfortable enough with themselves to start working on the sound that will define them.

'Grant'

continued from page 1

achieve their educational goals, the college will use the funds to develop programs through which students can earn an associate's degree or certificates in child development and computer application office technology as well as fulfill transfer requirements or prerequisites for the nursing program through a combination of online and hybrid courses. Hybrid classes contain both online and in-class components.

Although these programs will not be available entirely on the Internet, Delahoussaye expects these additional classes to make it possible for more students to receive an education.

In addition to allowing the college to increase the number of online and hybrid classes, a portion of the grant's funds will be used to ensure that students can actually take advantage of the new services.

Two-fifths of the college's students have access to a computer, according to Nalepa. The college will buy laptops that instructors will be able to loan out. Money has also been allocated to extend the revamp of the CAVE computer lab (the college spent \$100,000 on new equipment for it last year).

After its eventual move from the Engineering building to Business Journalism, the lab will be dedicated solely to student use, unlike its current incarnation, which also functions as a classroom. It will have extended evening and

weekend hours; the new CAVE lab is expected to be ready by February.

Student services will be expanding to allow students to access their services via the World Wide Web. Bruce Thomas of the counseling department explains the counseling component to the grant.

"Students in this program will have steady contact [with a counselor], so it's almost like having a mentor that [students] can connect with at any time," he said.

Students will not be the only ones affected by the school's plans for the additional funds. Nalepa said she plans on having extensive faculty involvement in the implementation of the grant.

In addition to providing workshops and a technology "boot camp" that will teach instructors how to use and incorporate blogs, pod casts and chat rooms into their classes, she also will actively engage them in deciding which classes go online or become hybrid in the first place.

"A big component of this [grant] is the faculty support and the resources for the faculty because any administrator can say 'We want to have an online degree' or I can say that I want to have 57 online classes, but if we don't have the faculty support in terms of the training and the resources, it's going to be a failure," Nalepa said.

The grant money will be dispersed over the course of five years. It went into effect on Oct. 1.

'Chancellor'

continued from page 1



OPEN FORUM - Mark Drummond, the new Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor, speaks to Valley College staff and faculty during a meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2007, at the on-campus cafeteria conference room.

predictable.

The initiative would also ensure that the community colleges, which are included in the same education fund as the state's Kindergarten through 12th grade schools, would receive a set percentage of the fund, rather than the fluctuating amount it currently gets.

"Passing the initiative will help us ensure adequate funding so that we can continue offering the kind of classes and programs that will help students succeed with transferring to a four-year institution or working toward their immediate employment goals," said Physical Education Professor Joanne Waddell. She is also the chapter president of the American Federation of Teachers' faculty guild.

'Textbooks'

continued from page 1

"We are 100 percent behind this bill because it helps people like me," said Reyes. "I still don't have my Philosophy textbook because its \$82 and I've got bills to pay."

Sarah Pastor, 23, agrees, saying that it is logical for the governor to sign the bill.

"With the way the economy is, it's just not fair for students to overpay for books... Hopefully, the governor sees sense," she said.

The College Textbook Transparency Act (AB 1548) is also in the California State Assembly, but SB 832 is the only textbook bill supported by student groups, the California Teachers Association, and the Community College League of California. CALPIRG states that the College Textbook Affordability Act is the better bill, as it will go into effect upon signing, whereas the College Textbook Transparency Act will not be enacted until 2010. Also, the College Textbook Transparency Act does not require lists of prices and edition changes to be posted on publisher websites, whereas the College Textbook Affordability Act does.

Gov. Schwarzenegger has until Oct. 12 to sign or veto either bill, and has yet to indicate what action he will take.

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'Dream Act'

continued from page 1

for support is the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, known as MALDEF. MALDEF advocates civil rights for Latinos, and is also a leader in providing scholarships to immigrant students who qualify under AB 540, the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption.

Correction:

Due to an editing error in the September 26 issue, the article "Bush's Believe it or Not" stated that there have been 33,777 American deaths in Iraq. 3,818 American soldiers have died during the war.

In the caption for the photo of Valley instructor Eric Swelstad with the article "Students Earn Chops with Horror Film, he was incorrectly identified as Steve Silver.

The headline for the article "Child Development Center Grows Up," misidentified the recipient of the \$1.8 million in grants. The Child Development Department, not the Child Development Center was the recipient.

In the article, "District Refutes Claims of No Cash," Valley President Tyree Wieder's last name was misspelled as Weider.

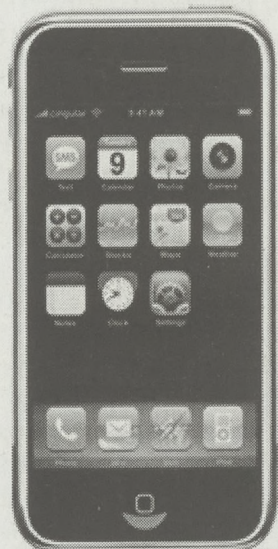
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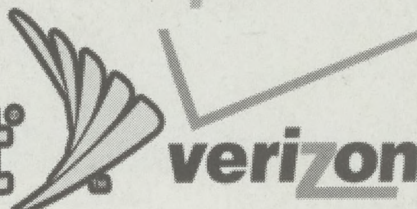
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SPORTS

7

LAVC SCORES

Football vs. Desert
(L 49-17) 9/1/07
vs. Antelope Valley
(L 14-7) 9/8/07
Football Record: 0-2

(M) Water Polo vs. El Camino
(L 5-2)
(M) Water Polo Record: 0-1

(W) Water Polo vs. Mt. SAC
(L 10-16) 9/21-22/07
vs. Grossmont
(L 12-16) 9/21-22/07
vs. Santa Ana
(W 10-7) 9/21-22/07
vs. Chaffey
(L 14-15) 9/21-22/07
(W) Water Polo Record: 1-3

(W) Soccer vs. San Diego City
(W 5-1) 8/31/07
vs. Sacramento City
(L 1-3) 9/1/07
vs. Hartnell
(W 5-4) 9/2/07
(W) Water Polo Record: 2-1

X-Country - Ventura Invit.

Women

Elva Lopez	23:21	26th
Erika Lopez	24:24	38th
Martha Alvarado	25:13	41st
Kathy Rodriguez	28:01	69th
Rebecca Sanders	DNF	

Men

Andrew Salg	22:34	7th
German Sanchez	24:20	46th
German Cruz	25:07	67th
Frank Rodriguez	25:10	68th
Miguel Galvez	25:57	85th
Jordan Hill	26:39	96th
Agustin Rios	26:55	100th
Luis Hernandez	26:56	101st
Carlos Parraguire	27:02	105th
Carlos Paredes	28:20	113th
Brian Ramirez	30:14	124th
Edward Martinez	33:04	128th
Nestor Espinoza	34:37	130th
Japjit Grewal	35:01	131st

Run To The Second Half for Monarchs

By ERIC L. PATTEN
STAFF WRITER

A whiteboard inside the Valley College football coaches' office reads: "I can have excuses or I can have results, but I cannot have both."

On the field the 1-4 Monarchs have not met their own expectations, but after a week off the team's approach to the second half of the season may result in far less excuses.

"I don't like bye-weeks, but this year I had a chance to rejuvenate myself; take some time off; clear my mind," said Head Coach Jimmy Sims. And I'm really excited about practice today. And I'm excited about Valley football right now."

In recent years, just being excited about the team has not produced the desired results. The team has not had a winning season since 1998 and has lost nine of their last 12 games coached by Sims. Still, after a bye-week and a competitive 28-14 loss to Citrus College (4-1) two weeks ago, Sims is encouraged.

"We haven't given up

as a team," the third-year coach said on Monday. "I've had to cut a few players over the last week and some of the coaches have decided to release themselves from their duties, but we haven't quit."

A new attitude is not all that has permeated recently at Monarch Stadium. After spreading the ball around earlier in the season, the offensive philosophy

"They've stuck together and done a good job."

- Jimmy Sims

will now focus on getting the ball to running backs Anthony Dickson and James Walker in various I-back sets as much as possible.

Dickson, who was given a three out five-star rating by Scout.com, will earn what Sims called "double reps," meaning he will get twice as many carries as anyone else.

"I've got to carry a heavier load," the sophomore running back said.

Even with the speedy Dickson, the 215-pound Walker offers a nice

WSC FOOTBALL

change-of-pace between the tackles.

No matter who's in the backfield, offensive lineman Devin Grissom is excited about lining up and driving defenses off the line of scrimmage.

"It gives us a chance to do something and really puts the game on our shoulders," said Grissom, a 305-pound freshman.

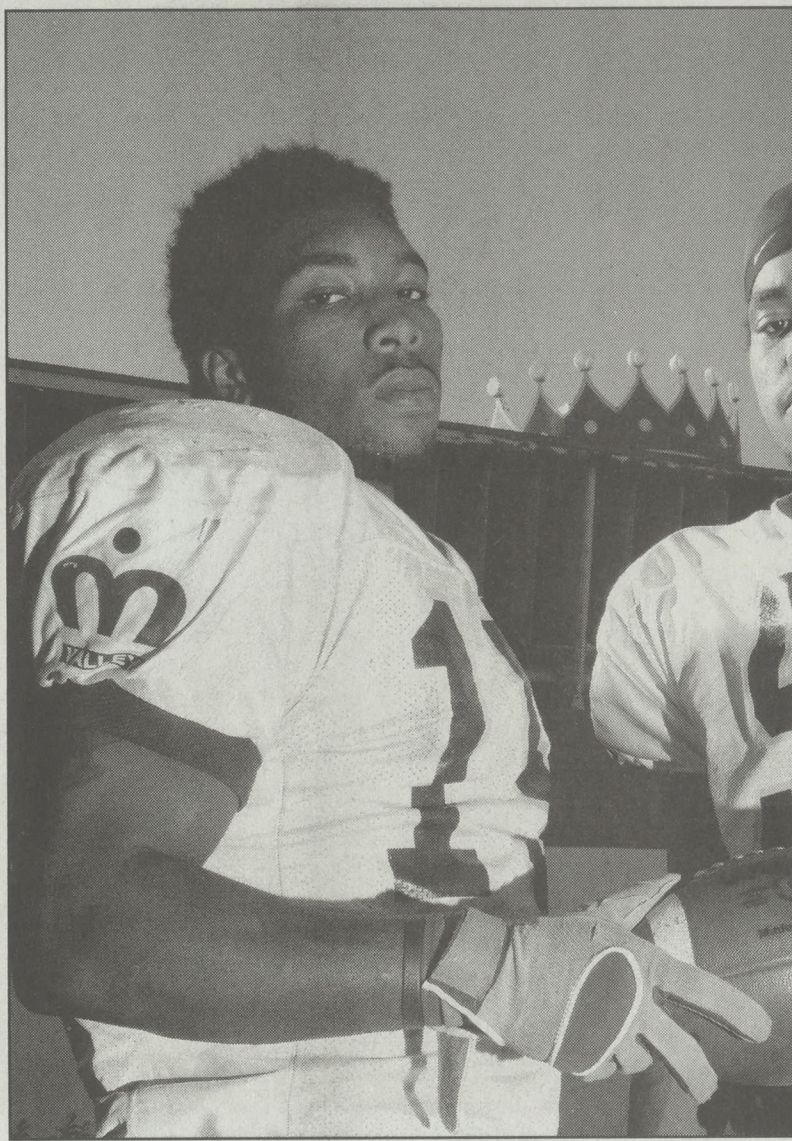
On the other side of the ball, an improving front seven has made up for the inexperienced secondary. Although Sims insists youth is no excuse for poor play.

"They've stuck together and done a good job," he said. "Even when they make mistakes."

With the season at its halfway point the team must improve on their minus-61 points per game differential.

"We've played some really formidable opponents, and I truly believe we're getting better," Sims said. "And the kids are getting more confident as [each] game goes on."

The Monarchs visit the East Los Angeles Huskies (0-5) on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Monterey Park.



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR
KINGS OF THE BACKFIELD-Valley College running backs James Walker, left, and Anthony Dickson will carry the ball more in the second half of the season according to coach Jimmy Sims.

CC Runners Tune up for So Cal

By OSCAR CHICAS
STAFF WRITER

The Southern California Preview was held Friday at Irvine Regional Park and Valley College women placing 12 and men placing 17.

Conditions for the race could not have been better at a breezy 68 degrees, with sparse cloud coverage. "It is perfect running weather," said Head Coach Francois Wolman.

The course started on a wide grass straight away, which was filled with 315 women for the 3-mile race and 420 men for the 4-mile race.

As soon as the starter's gun went off, it was reminiscent of a stampede, with each runner trying to jump ahead of the pack.

At the start of the 3-mile race, Valleys six-women squad was consumed by a sea of bodies. The squad was able to stick together most of the race and finished with an average time of 22:25 minutes, and a total of 350 points, which landed them in 12 out of 28 teams.

The event featured strong finishes from first time cross country runner and freshman Mekka White-Edwards, who finished first for the women in 56 with a time of 21:55.30, and Sophomore Elva Lopez who finished second in 57th with a time of 21:57.40.

The Monarchs top five were rounded out by Sylvia Albuniga in 88 place, Kathy Rodriguez in 94 place, Martha Alvarado in 95, and honorable mention for Erika

Lopez who came in at 105.

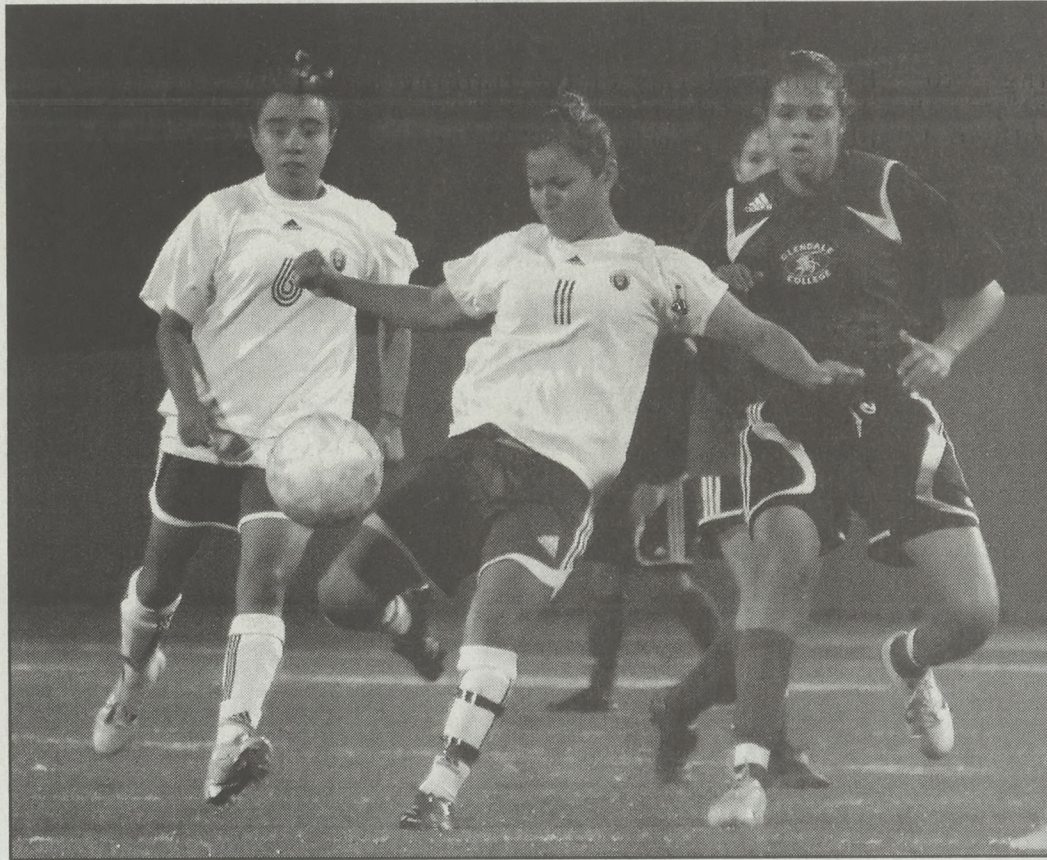
"We ran well, had a good grouping, and were getting into shape. The team is full of talent and hard workers, put that together and you get a good team. We came out to gain some respect and reached 12, were on the map," said Women's Coach Yannick Allain.

As for the men, after last weeks sturdy finish at the Bakersfield invitational, the men's squad was not able to produce the same results. The men's team finished in 17 out of 33 squads, with 485 points, and an average time of 22:54.12 min for the 4 mile race.

Andrew Salg and German Sanchez surged to the front pack at the start of the race, but only Salg would remain in the front. Salg finished the race in ninth place with a time of 20:53.70, 8.5 seconds behind the leader Alfredo Coronado from College of the Canyons. German Sanchez finished in 92, followed by German Cruz in 121, Luis Hernandez in 158, and Francisco Rodriguez in 186.

"In retrospective, we didn't do too bad," said Head Coach Francois Wolman. "This just shows them that they got to get focused and take it serious. That's why it's a preview now they can see what awaits them in three week for the real So. Cal meet."

The Monarchs next meet will be Saturday Oct. 13 at 11:00 am in Santa Barbara.



JONATHAN GIBBY / VALLEY STAR
GETTING AGGRESSIVE - Valley College forward Maria Guardado (1) drives the ball down the field showing a more aggressive side of the team, despite their 4-0 shutout to Glendale College on Friday night, October, 5th.

Valley Bows Out to Glendale

By KIM DURAN
STAFF WRITER

For the fourth consecutive game the Valley College women's soccer team has remained scoreless. What started out as a slow game quickly became too much for the Monarchs, resulting in their 4-0 loss at Glendale College.

The first half was close. Players from both teams played their best in an attempt to score the first goal of the night. Glendale was ready to play and had three very good goal attempts blocked by Valley Goalkeeper Yessenia Becerril before finally scoring 30 minutes into the game. This was the only goal scored for the entire first half.

The second half however was a different ball game. The Monarchs did their best to try and score with Yessenia Cervantes narrowly missed what could have been Valley's first goal in four games.

After almost being scored on, Glendale upped their intensity and became more aggressive on both the defensive and offensive side. It was at 22 minutes into the second half when Glendale scored their second goal of the night. But then it fell apart for the Monarchs

after Glendale scored two more goals within a 10-minute period, resulting in the final score of the game was 4-0.

It was a disappointing game for the Monarchs, and for Coach Shane Watkins who said they had a lot of hardships to overcome for this game.

"This group of girls are very inexperienced with the pace and intensity that comes with playing at this level," Watkins said when asked how he felt his girls played. "We had to deal with a lot today. Our starting [goal] keeper is injured and we just found out our backup is ineligible because of her units."

The goalkeeper that they did use, Yessenia Becerril, is actually a defender who found out she was going to be the keeper a half an hour before the game.

The Valley Monarchs record now falls to 2-8-1, 0-7, 0-4 after Tuesday's 4-1 loss to visiting Santa Monica College. While Coach Watkins isn't trying to make excuses for his team he hopes they will find a way to work together and play as a better team. Maybe they will have their chance on the next game, Friday October 12 at Citrus College at 3 p.m.



COURTESY OF YANNICK ALLAIN

AHEAD OF THE PACK-Valley College cross-country runner Kathy Rodriguez competes in the Southern California Preview at Irvine Regional Park last Saturday, October 5, 2007.

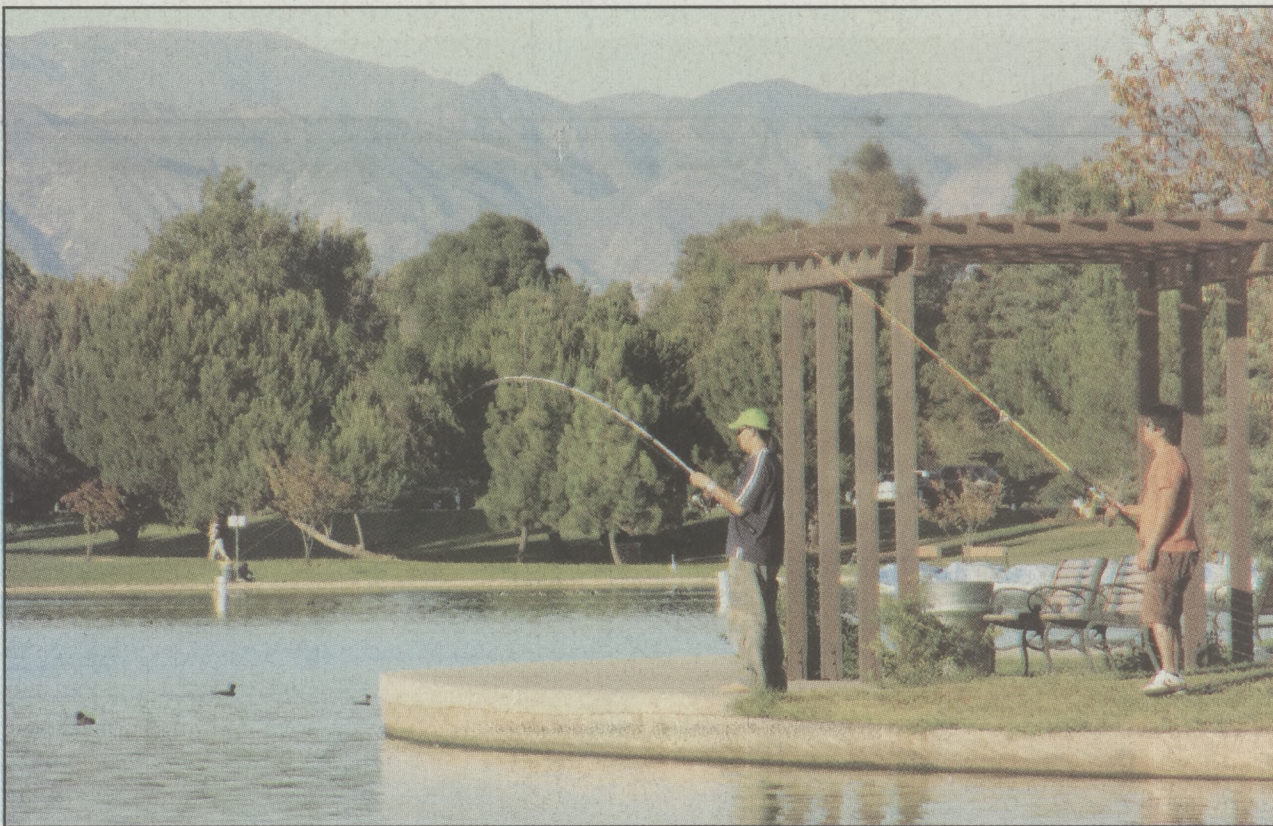
GALLERY



SUNSET - With the sun going down after a hectic day, it waves goodbye to us with its warm grace that could stop traffic, even on the 405.



THREE AMIGOS - As they swim around Balboa Lake together, these ducks teach us a good lesson about friendship and relaxation time.



COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE - A lot of people gather around Balboa Lake in the hopes of catching a fish or two.

TIME TO RELAX

Because midterms are looming, we notice how much our lives revolve around school and work. It's always important to find a balance between our responsibilities and our well-being. There are many places around the Valley that enhance the meaning of relaxation.

Places like Balboa Lake, left, bring us closer to nature or you can appreciate our city's beauty by absorbing the view from Mulholland Drive. The point is not to forget that our bodies and minds get tired of our fast-paced lives and we must find ways to regain all the lost energy.

Photos and Text By Graciela Salgado



UNIVERSAL TOWERS - From Mulholland Drive, you can see Universal's presence as the San Fernando Valley stretches beyond.



CITY OVERLOOK - It is important to find signage as this to be able to understand more of the history behind the area that surrounds us.